

GAME FACE

INDIANS SCOREBOOK MAGAZINE



Number One Starter
Bartolo Colon

April 2002 GameFace \$3.00



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Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Home of Baseball's Best Fans



Welcome to Jacobs Field!

The 2002 Major League Baseball season is sure to be both exciting and challenging as we continue to engineer the transition of our ballclub while remaining competitive. We have high hopes of defending our American League Central Division title and returning to post-season play for the seventh time in the past eight years.



Under the guidance of General Manager Mark Shapiro, our transition is based on a planned strategy. Building a team, rather than a collection of individuals – with an emphasis on character, chemistry, and playing strong fundamental baseball – is at the center of our strategic plan.

Your enjoyment of Indians baseball is our main objective – whether you're sitting in the stands at Jacobs Field, listening on the radio, watching on television, accessing game and player information on our website, or reading the newspaper. We look forward to providing you the very best in sports entertainment.

On behalf of the players and our entire front office staff, we thank you for your remarkable support. Together, as partners, we will continue the excitement and success of Indians Baseball in Cleveland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LD' or 'Larry Dolan'.

Larry Dolan
President and Chief Executive Officer



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2401 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-4003

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Credits

Our thanks to everyone who assisted the Marketing Staff of the Cleveland Indians in the development of this publication.

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Printing

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Bartolo Colon is the Indians hard-throwing, number one pitcher. He's also known by his teammates as "Boogie." Of course, opposing batters are unlikely to think of him in such light-hearted terms. Needle examines Colon's rise to the number one position in the pitching rotation and compares Colon with some admirable peers.

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Charles Nagy was the number one draft pick of the Cleveland Indians in 1988. Nearly 15 years later, he has amassed a record that ranks him among the team's "All-Time Best." Nagy prefers finesse to flamboyance – in both his pitching and attitude.

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The Indians are active in the Cleveland Community, most especially in the area of youth education and recreation. To learn more about the Community Outreach programs sponsored by the Indians and their corporate partners, please turn to page 22.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Q: So if you get to a point one day where you are maybe one trade away from possibly winning a World Series. . .

A: We would trade our top talent to help us get over the hump if we think we're close, but we won't trade one of those special cornerstone guys.

Q: You have tried to reconfigure the team with an emphasis on pitching. Is that a basic philosophy of yours, or is that just responding to what is an organizational strength right now?

A: I may be a little more pitching sensitive, with my experience and background, but this is less a philosophical statement and more of a case of us playing to our strength. That's where our strength is. I happen to think that's how you win, and I look at Arizona last year. Especially with dominant pitching. But we want to have a balanced team. We don't want to have a pitching team. We want to have an offensive team that can find multiple ways to score runs, play good defense, do the little things, with pitching that has a chance to dominate every night.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Q: You really like your bullpen, don't you?

A: We've said from the beginning that if we're going to make the bullpen the strength of our team, let's really shore it up, which I feel we did with the addition of Mark Wohlers. Now we have four veteran, back-end guys in Wickman, Paul Shuey, Wohlers, and Ricardo Rincon, all of whom have closed games at the Major League level. We also have two guy in middle relief – David Riske and Riggan – who I believe have the ceiling to be closers or elite setup men. Plus we have some depth there in a guy like Jake Westbrook, who could figure in as well.

Q: When you began to think about the kind of front office staff you wanted to assemble



when you became general manager, what were the characteristics you were looking for in the people you hired?

A: I wanted people whose skills and experiences complemented me, which, to a large extent, meant they were different than me. I also wanted people whose values were very similar or even identical to mine. I wanted people who wanted to win, but wanted to win the same way I wanted to win. But the main thing I wanted were people whose skills complemented mine in order to help us make quality decisions. So you bring in a Steve Lubratich, who has had diametrically different life experiences as me. A guy who has been a player, a Mi-

nor League manager, a farm director, a scout, an assistant GM. He's one of those rare guys who can evaluate talent, but also negotiate a contract. So he can help immeasurably as an advisor.

You bring in Karl Kuehl, who helped build one of the best farm systems in baseball in Oakland, for on-field advice. Instructional advice.

O: What about Tim Belcher?

A: I've always believed you should have a recently retired player on your front office staff.

Clockwise, beginning above: Shapiro with pitcher C.C. Sabathia and C.C.'s Mom, Margie, announcing the young pitcher's recent contract signing. New front office team members (l to r): Karl Kuehl, Tim Belcher, and Steve Lubratic.

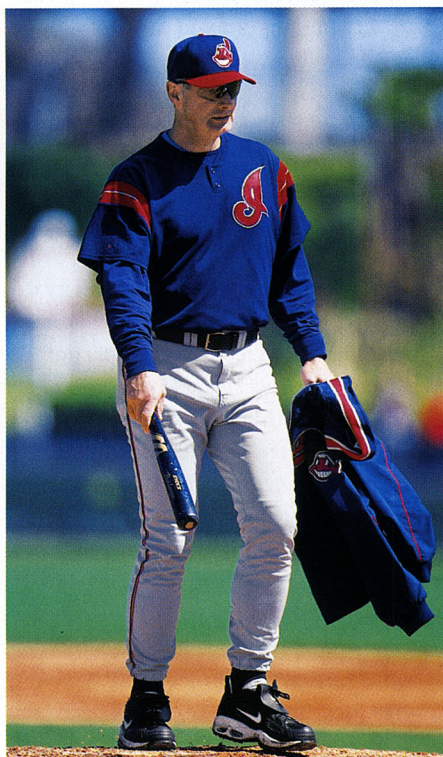


Photo: Gregory Drezdzone



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Q: Why?

A: You want to know how the decisions you are making impact the people in that clubhouse. I can only guess. Tim Belcher knows. He's been in clubhouses for 16 years. I also want to use his contacts. If we want to do a check on another player's makeup, Tim can call someone who lockered next to the guy, where I've got to guess and observe. I want to do better than guess and observe. Plus he's extremely intelligent and has a ton of promise as a future front office guy in this game. This gives him the chance to get some experience to see how a front office is run, so it's a good tradeoff from his point of view.

Q: What does (Assistant General Manager) John Mirabelli bring?

A: He was a college player and coach, an area scout, cross checker, supervisor, and has shown immediate expertise in running a scouting system, and having outstanding drafts. He's a great amateur evaluator, and now in the international scouting front as well.

Q:(Assistant General Manager) Chris Antonetti?

A: Chris brings a financial and information systems acumen that's beyond my own, a tremendous passion for the game and desire to help us be better at what we do.

Q: (Assistant General Manager) Neal Huntington?

A: He brings skills that are very similar to mine. He is an extremely prepared, disciplined, driven, and passionate person about baseball. He's a guy who's always



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

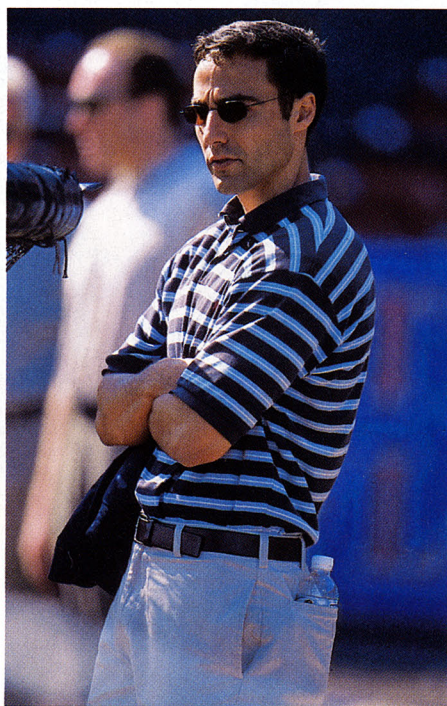


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

thinking about ways to make this organization better.

Q: (Director of Player Development) John Farrell?

A: John always impressed me with his natural leadership. He has a tremendous presence about him. He has the experience of having been a high draft pick who made it to the Major Leagues, had success and failure, then battled back. For me he has such a dynamic personality that it makes him a perfect farm director.

Q: Having not been a professional baseball player yourself, did you feel the need to surround yourself with some people who do have that kind of experience?

A: Yes. I wanted guys who knew what it felt like to be in uniform.

Q: So all these guys you've assembled, each have a particular area of expertise that they help you with?

A: Absolutely. Each of their roles are very defined. How they can contribute. But they are also empowered to contribute outside their roles. We've created an environment here where there are no walls. John Mirabelli is free to walk into the player development department and say, "I've got this idea. . ." Chris can walk into Charlie Manuel's office and ask him about something. There are no barriers. I think it's very rare to have so many people like this that the guards don't immediately go up when somebody asks them something about what they are doing. We create a very open environment where they are empowered

and encouraged to impact their areas in any ways they can, but we are also a very tight group.

Q: So when you have to make a decision, everyone gets called in and you go around the room and get all the opinions and make the decision?

A: You do want to get all the variables that go into making the decision. Primarily you've got financial variables. But you've also got medical variables, you've got projection of a player's skills, how good can he be? And you've got the typical evaluations, which is his past. How good of a player has he been? So you've got all those variables. And everyone in that room will contribute in their area. I may, in the end, ask each of them their overall opinion. But what I want is for them to be prepared, in their area of expertise, to provide that piece of the puzzle. Ultimately the decision comes down to me, but if you collect all the information systematically and efficiently, the decision becomes easier. Not easy, but easier.

Q: Making decisions is the essence of your job, is it not?

A: Yes. You're a decision maker. But you're also the leader of an organization. That's

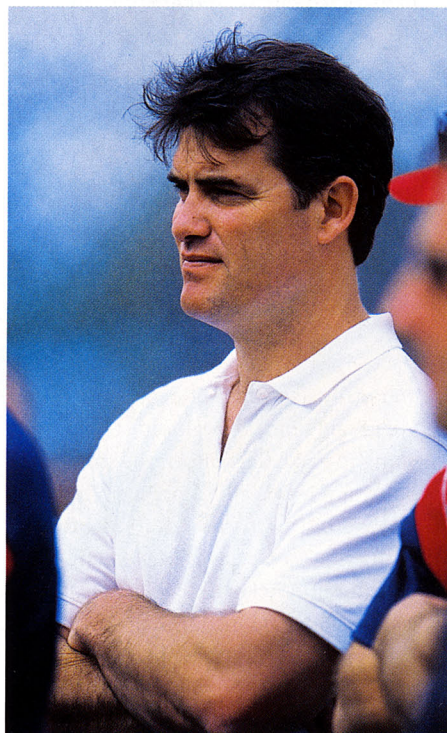


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Members of Shapiro's managing team observe Spring Training workouts: clockwise, beginning at top, Chris Antonetti, John Farrell, and John Mirabelli.

probably the least interesting thing to people on the outside, but the most interesting thing to me. Because in the end, you are a decision maker, and the quality of your decisions determines how well and how long you do your job.

Q: Communicating the plan is also a big part of the general manager's job as well, right?

A: That's probably one-third of the job. Communicating what it is you're trying to do.

Q: Is that sort of communication something that has come easy to you or have you had to work at it?

A: I'm probably not as charismatic as some other people who have done it. I try to play to my own strength, I use my mind and go with what I think and feel, and not what I think people want to hear. I feel like the only communication style that has longevity is sincerity and honesty. So I approach communication with sincerity and honesty. And I hope that will give me the ability to communicate with credibility over the long term.

Q: Does it sometimes get frustrating that maybe the perception of what the organization is trying to do is not what you'd like it to be?

A: It's frustrating trying to explain it in 30-second sound bytes and one three-line response. I try to find some analogies or catch phrases that will reach everyone. But ultimately I know everyone just wants to see it played out. So I'll explain it as we do it, knowing we'll be ultimately judged by the final results.

Q: But there is also the possibility that by mid-season you might have to just say, "Here's what we tried to do, but here's what happened."

"I don't judge myself as a man by how many games the Indians win. I judge myself as a man by the strength of human relationships I have. And I think those relationships, and my passion and commitment, will lead us to be successful."

Indians GM Mark Shapiro

A: Look, I know what we're trying to do and that it may not work, and that we may have to react. We're trying to avoid something that might be inevitable, but I think we can avoid it. The division we're in also factors into that. We may have done some things differently in the AL East than we are doing in the AL Central.

Q: How do you see the AL Central?

A: There are three teams who have a great chance to win the division. We're the most balanced team. The Twins have a better rotation than us, but I like our lineup and our bullpen better than theirs. The White Sox have a much better lineup than us, but I like our rotation and our bullpen a lot better than theirs.

Q: In six of the last seven years the Indians have won the division, and won it handily. This year to win it, you are going to have to really win it, probably in a close race. Is that an exciting thought, or would you prefer it the other way?

A: I wish it was boring again (laughs). I think what will happen is, if we win, there will be a greater appreciation for how we accomplished it. We're taking a risk, and anytime you take a risk the satisfaction is that much greater.

Q: This franchise is at a point it hasn't been at for seven or eight years. That has to be a challenge for you.

A: The tough part is that people's expectations have been raised to a level that they don't understand, or don't want to understand, that everything has to go through a transition at some point. They just want you to keep winning. Obviously that limits my upside in what I can accomplish from a perception standpoint with the public. But, again, what I've tried to do is concentrate on the fact that if we go through the process in our front office in an efficient way, the results will be what we want them to be.

Q: What's the difference between someone who is a CEO of a corporation and a general manager of a baseball team?

A: The biggest difference is our assets are human. They're not inanimate objects. They are not pieces of paper. No matter how good you are at setting up a system, no matter how hard you work, there is still the unpredictability of human beings. It's the biggest difference, the biggest challenge, and the greatest fulfillment. When you accomplish something with human beings it's an incredible feeling because

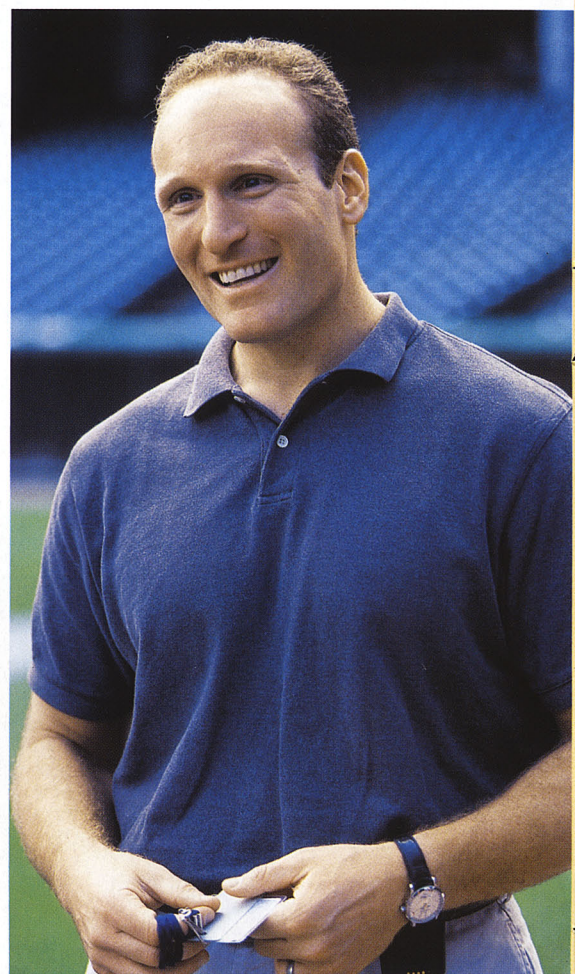


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

you are betting on a person. To see that person succeed, knowing how much you care about that person and respect him, I can't express how good that feels. But the frustration of an injury, something you can't control, sidetracking your season, that's tough.

Q: That's a hot seat you're sitting in. If things don't turn out the way you'd like, are you prepared for the criticism?

A: I'm prepared to deal with that from the standpoint of, no matter how much they (the critics) want to do it, they can't define me by my job. I've got a greater meaning and purpose to my life, and my wife and my future child and my role as a friend and a leader of people – that's how I judge myself as a man. I don't judge myself as a man by how many games the Indians win. I judge myself as a man by the strength of human relationships I have. And I think those relationships, and my passion and commitment, will lead us to be successful. If there are things out of my control that lead to criticism, that criticism can only touch me to a certain level of my skin – it can't pierce it.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

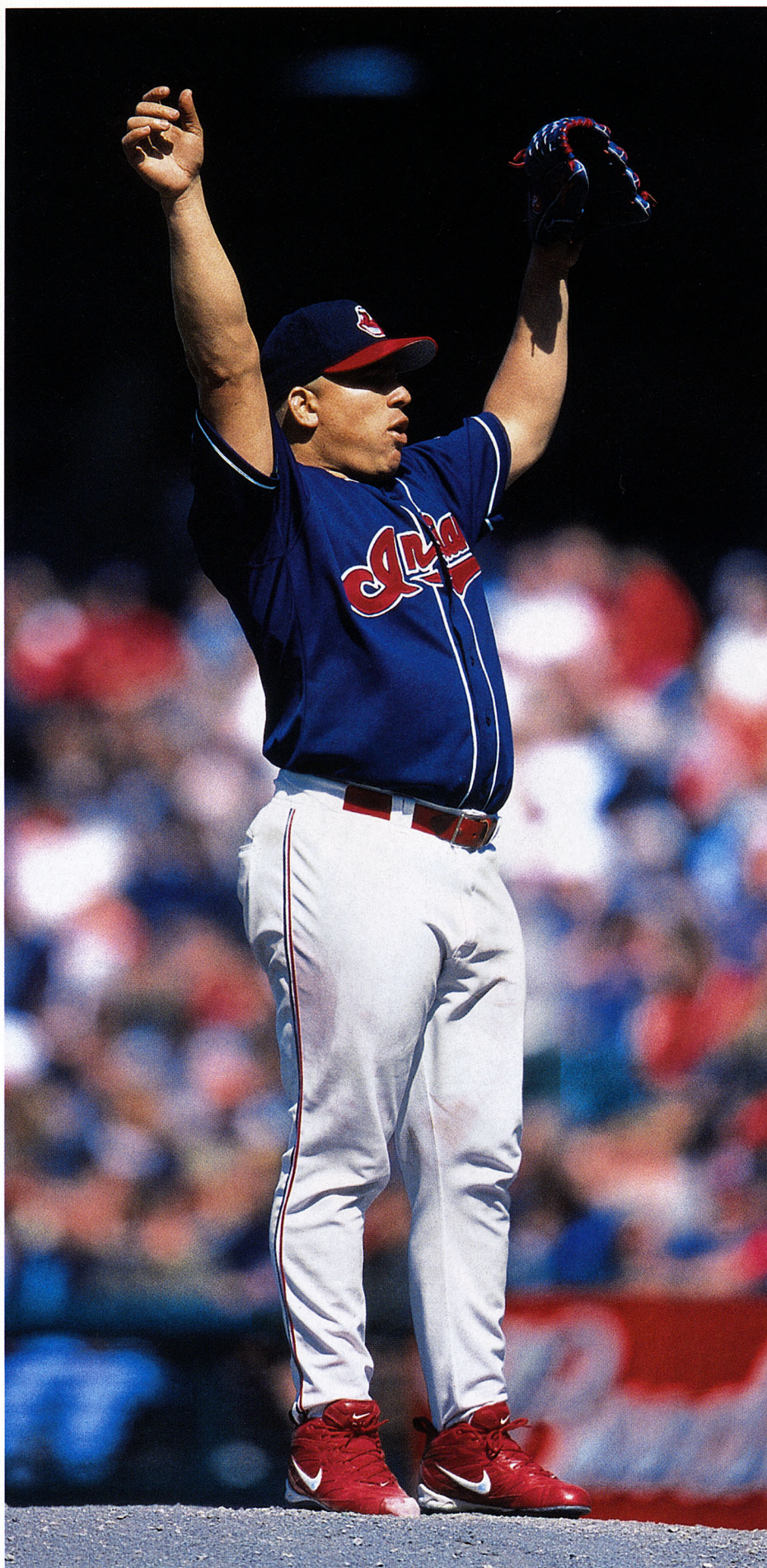


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

fewer remember his Game One start at Safeco Field in which he pitched eight innings, allowing six hits while striking out 10 and walking but two in a Tribe triumph.

"I wanted to win that game (Game Four) so bad," Colon says. "It hurt inside when we lost. Yes, I pitched good in the first game. But losing the series was worse."

If it's true that a player's performance "on the big stage, in the glare of the national spotlight," is what separated the stars from the average ballplayer, consider what Colon has done during the post season.

In 1998, in his first playoff action, Colon was sensational. He started the Division Series-clinching game against Boston and provided 5.2 innings of five-hit, one-run pitching.

"I am confident. I am not concerned by what others say about me. If I'm pitching good, I know I am pitching good. If not, I know that, too. I want to pitch as good as I can every time."

Bartolo Colon

Six days later, in Game Three of the ALCS against the eventual World Series Champion Yankees, Colon was even better. He pitched the Tribe's first post-season complete game since Hall-of-Famer Bob Lemon did so in 1954, giving up just four hits and one run in a 6-to-1 Indians victory.

In total, Colon's first playoff action ended with him allowing two earned runs in 14.2 innings pitched on nine hits for an ERA of 1.23. He continued the big performances on the big stage of the playoffs a year later, again against Boston.

In Game One, Colon allowed just two runs and five hits, with a season-high 11 strikeouts in eight innings. He got no decision in the contest, a game won on Travis Fryman's base hit in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Pitching on only three days rest for the first time in his career, Colon suffered a seven-

run outburst by the Red Sox in Game Four – the only blot on an otherwise superb post-season resume that – save the 1999 aberration in Game Four – would boast of just seven earned runs in 31.1 innings pitched – and an ERA of 2.01. Big stage, indeed.

Given his work in the post season, along with an average of better than 15 victories a year as a full-time starter, it's easy to understand why the Indians regard Colon as the linchpin of a starting rotation on a team in transition.

"I've known Bartolo his entire pro career," says Indians first-year pitching coach Mike Brown. "He's always wanted to be 'The Man.' He's got a big arm and a big heart."

General Manager Mark Shapiro has another view. "By transforming our club into a pitching-oriented team, we're asking our pitchers to perform as if it were the post season, where runs are usually fewer and pitching and defense characterize the games.

"It's no secret that Bartolo rises to the occasion in the post season."

Some of Colon's critics wonder if he'll ever get any better than the 15-to-18 victory level he's achieved in his first four seasons. One of his teammates has no doubt he will.

"Some guys get it early," says veteran lefty Chuck Finley, who has been in the bigs since 1986. "Guys like Doc Gooden. Others guys get it a little later. Boogie has been good, so far. He'll get better."

Fifteen victories per year is nothing to sneeze at. But Finley has a point. Some guys do "get it" later than others. How about a couple of Cy Young Award winners named Sandy Koufax and Randy Johnson?

Koufax pitched four complete seasons with the Dodgers and parts of two others before he won more than 11 games – almost 700 Major League innings. Colon went 14-and-9 in his first full year with the Tribe.

Colon has given the Indians more than 200 innings in three of his four full seasons with the club. Last season he threw 3650 pitches, most in the American League.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Koufax, elected to the Hall of Fame in 1972, walked an average of 5.3 batters in his first four seasons as a starter. Colon has averaged 3.8 walks per nine innings in his first four full campaigns.

More recently, Johnson bears a look. Arizona's sensational southpaw was little more than a .500 pitcher in his first six big league seasons, posting a 50-and-48 record with the Expos and Mariners and was 30 years old before he achieved the reputation as a dominating pitcher. He walked 519 hitters in 818 innings in those first six years (almost six bases on balls per nine innings) and until last fall, had won as many post-season games as Colon.

Baseball's wisdom suggests left-handed pitchers take longer to develop than

righthanders and both Koufax and Johnson are southpaws. Perhaps there's a right-handed power pitcher, somebody similar to Colon, who might support Chuck Finley's point that some hurlers "get it" sooner than others.

How about 1996 NL Cy Young Award winner John Smoltz? After eight seasons in the Majors, between 1988 and 1995, Smoltz's career record was 90-and-82 – and that mark was compiled with teams that won division titles from 1991-1995 and pennants in three of the eight campaigns; teams on which other Atlanta Cy Young Award winners like Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux were usually the Number One and Number Two starters, leaving Smoltz to face opponents' third or fourth pitchers. And, yes, critics often wondered if Smoltz would ever "get it." Smoltz, apparently,

“got it” in his ninth season, winning 24 games while losing eight, striking out 276 hitters and walking just 55 in 253.2 innings.

Certainly, nobody is suggesting Bartolo Colon is another Sandy Koufax, Randy Johnson, or even John Smoltz. But neither is Colon a creation of an overzealous publicity department. Those who try to hit him offer praise.

“Colon seems to get better every time I see him,” said Dante Bichette. “When I first saw him, when he was just coming up, he tried to throw the fastball past everyone. And he has

**“Man, that Bartolo’s an
innings eater. Every fifth day,
you send him out there and
he gives you six, seven innings
and everything he’s got
while he’s doing it.”**

Indians Manager Charlie Manuel



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

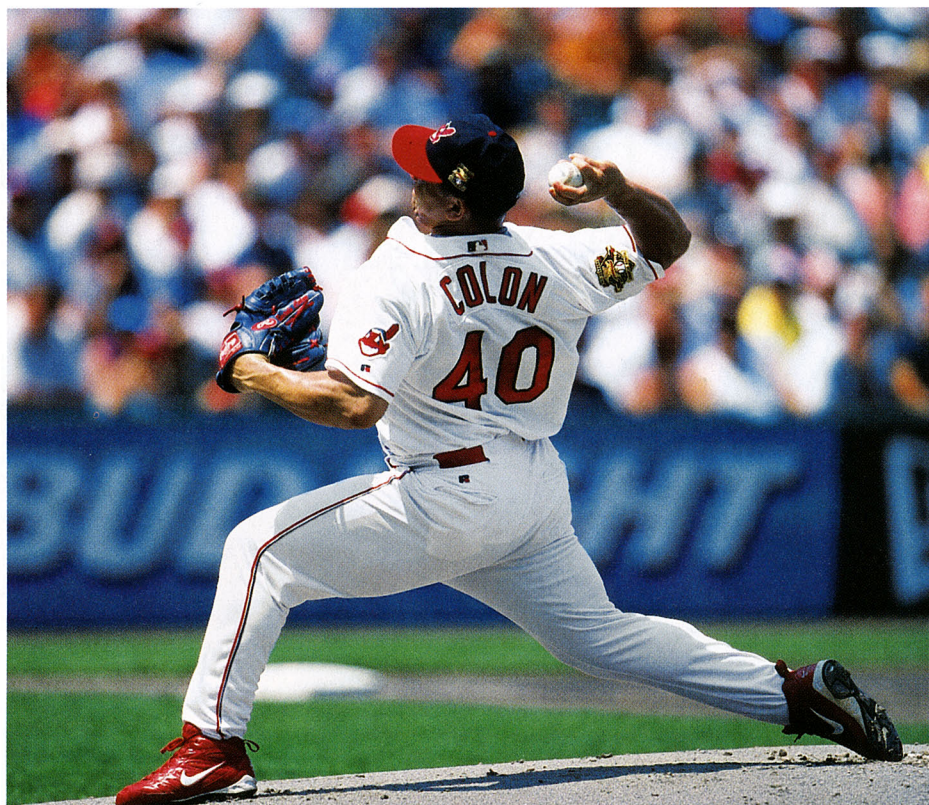


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

a good fastball. But at our level, every hitter can adjust to a fastball – no matter how hard a pitcher throws. You need more.

“Now, he’s added a solid breaking pitch and a good change-up. Those make him a pitcher, not just a guy who can throw hard.”

At age 28, Colon is just entering the prime of his career and is primed for the opportunities his role as the Indians Number One starter offer.

“I think I am a good pitcher,” he says. “But I also know I can get better. I can get more consistent with my pitching.

“And I am a veteran now. We have Chuck Finley, but with C.C. [Sabathia] and Danys Baez as starters, I want to be a player the young players can look up to.”

If there’s one area where Colon can serve as a role model for young pitchers, it’s with his work ethic. Colon has given the Indians more than 200 innings in three of his four full seasons with the club. Last season he threw 3650 pitches, most in the American League.

“Man, that Bartolo’s an *innings eater*,” says Manuel. “Every fifth day, you send him out there and he gives you six, seven innings and everything he’s got while he’s doing it.

“And he pitches great in the games you really need him to.”

Manuel is right. As well as Colon has pitched in his four-plus seasons with the Tribe, it’s late in the year – even before the playoffs begin – that Colon seems to be at his best.

In September of 2000, when every Indians game had a bearing on post-season qualification, Colon went 3-and-0 with a 1.94 ERA. Last year, as the Indians overtook Minnesota for their sixth Central Division title in seven seasons, Colon was 8-and-5 with a 3.28 ERA and in 1999 his record was 12-and-2 over his last 19 starts with an ERA of 2.98.

For his career, Colon is 14-and-8 in July, 11-and-6 in August and 12-and-6 in September/October. Those figures add up to a 37-and-20 record during the second halves, a winning percentage of .649. The winningest pitcher in baseball history, Yankees Hall-of-Famer Whitey Ford, had a .690 winning rate. So, down the stretch, when late-season victories mean more to Colon’s Indians than they ever did to Ford’s Yanks, Cleveland’s flamethrower is in the same “ballpark” as the Yankee legend.

“He can be a great one,” says Shapiro. “Bartolo has the arm, the makeup, the heart, and the stuff to be the anchor of our staff. That’s what we’re banking on. ‘Boogie’ is one reason why we’re doing what we’re doing.”

So as the Indians head off into uncharted waters in 2002, a season where they’re counting on their pitching to win games, the way they counted on their hitters since the move to Jacobs Field, there are a number of concerns. But that’s only natural.

At least the Tribe doesn’t have to fear the Boogie Man. It’s their opponents who have to worry about that.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

In the six-year period from 1994-99, Nagy won more games than Roger Clemens (90-84). The only pitchers who won more games than Nagy in that span were Greg Maddux, Mike Mussina, Pedro Martinez, Randy Johnson, and Tom Glavine.

"CHARLIE IS JUST
A SOLID PRO. ALL HE CARES
ABOUT IS WHAT'S BEST
FOR THE
CLEVELAND INDIANS."
INDIANS GM MARK SHAPIRO

See? Through most of his career, Nagy has been a better pitcher than most baseball fans realize. But he doesn't have a colorful nickname, he doesn't sound off with outrageous quotes, he's never pitched a no-hitter, or struck out more than 12 batters in a game, so very few have noticed what he's achieved. Heck, he's never even changed teams. Never been traded. Never been a free agent. He's so boring, it's refreshing

"Charlie is just a solid pro," said General Manager Mark Shapiro. "All he cares about is what's best for the Cleveland Indians." It's a career that stretches back to June 29, 1990,

when "Steve," er, Charles Nagy made his Major League debut. This was pre-Jacobs Field. The Indians in 1990 won just 77 games, and the following year they would lose a franchise-record 105 games. It was not a pretty sight.

"We had a lot of young players who were just trying to establish themselves in the Major Leagues," said Nagy. "I think a lot of us were just in awe over being in the big leagues. I know I was. When I first came up I found myself pitching against guys I idolized."

And Nagy was not just some chump off the sandlot. He was a two-time Big East Pitcher of the Year while pitching for the University

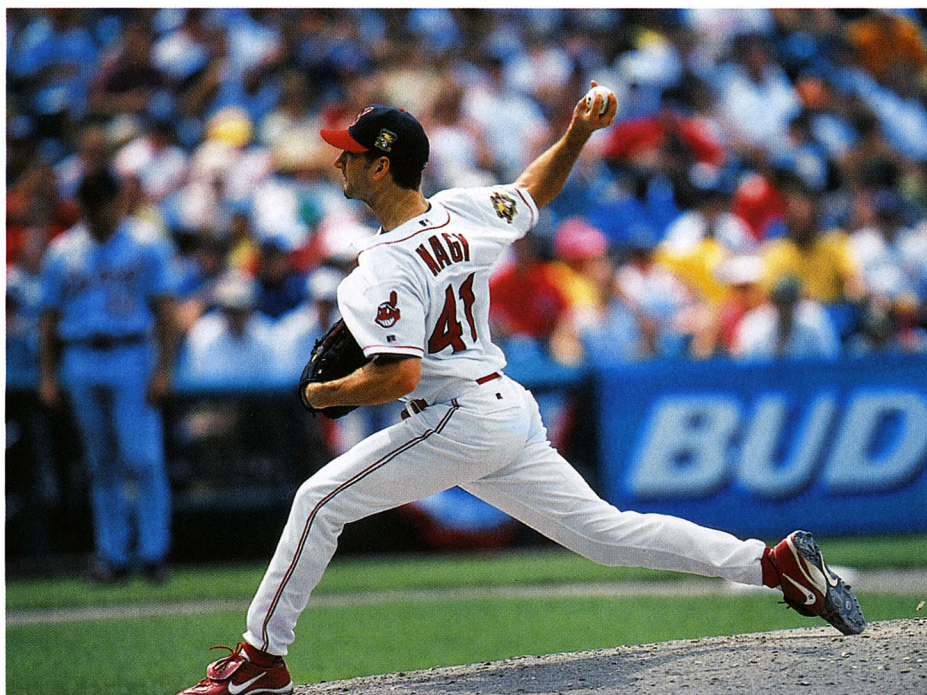


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

After more than a decade in the Majors, Indians fans know Nagy as a "ground-out-producing knuckle-baller" and a sure-handed fielder among pitchers.

of Connecticut. He had the lowest ERA of any pitcher on the 1988 Gold Medal-winning U.S. Olympic team, and he was a first round pick – the 17th player taken overall – by the Indians in the 1988 June Amateur Draft.

Nagy shot through the Tribe's Minor League system in just a year and a half, making the jump from Double-A to the big leagues in 1990. He was a member of a core group of young, talented players who started filtering up to the Tribe's big league club starting in the early 1990s. In addition to Nagy, that group included Albert Belle, Carlos Baerga, and two players acquired in trades, Sandy Alomar and Kenny Lofton. That group would become the nucleus around which the Indians would build what became, by the mid 1990s, an American League powerhouse, and one of the elite teams in the Major Leagues.

"I don't think we really could tell that anything special was going on when we all first got there," said Nagy. "We were a bunch of young guys who were new to the league, but by the end of the 1992 season, players on other teams started noticing. And they started mentioning it to us. They'd say, 'You guys are only one or two players away from having a really good team.'"

There was still a ways to go, however.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

"We were still playing in the Old Stadium then, so it was hard to get any free agents interested in coming to Cleveland," said Nagy. "But then when the new ballpark was being built, things changed. After the 1993 season, players would come up to me in the off-season and ask about what it was like to play in Cleveland. That's when we started to get the feeling that there was something special in what we were doing."

It was then – after the 1993 season – that the Indians signed their first two big free agents: Eddie Murray and Dennis Martinez. The corner had been turned. Those signings signaled that the Indians, playing in brand new Jacobs Field, which would open in 1994, were ready to blossom into a contender – the first Indians team to be a serious contender in more than 30 years.

Nagy won 10 games for the 105-loss Indians in 1991. In 1992 he went 17-10 and was selected to the American League All-Star team for the first of three times in the 1990s. Shoulder surgery ruined his 1993 season, but he bounced back to win 10 games in 1994, and then he was 16-6 for the monstrous 1995 Indians, who steamrolled everyone that season, going 100-44 and winning the Central Division by a record 30 games.

"That was an incredible year," said Nagy. "Albert (Belle) had an unbelievable year. So did Kenny and Carlos. By then Manny (Ramirez) and Jimmy (Thome) were up with

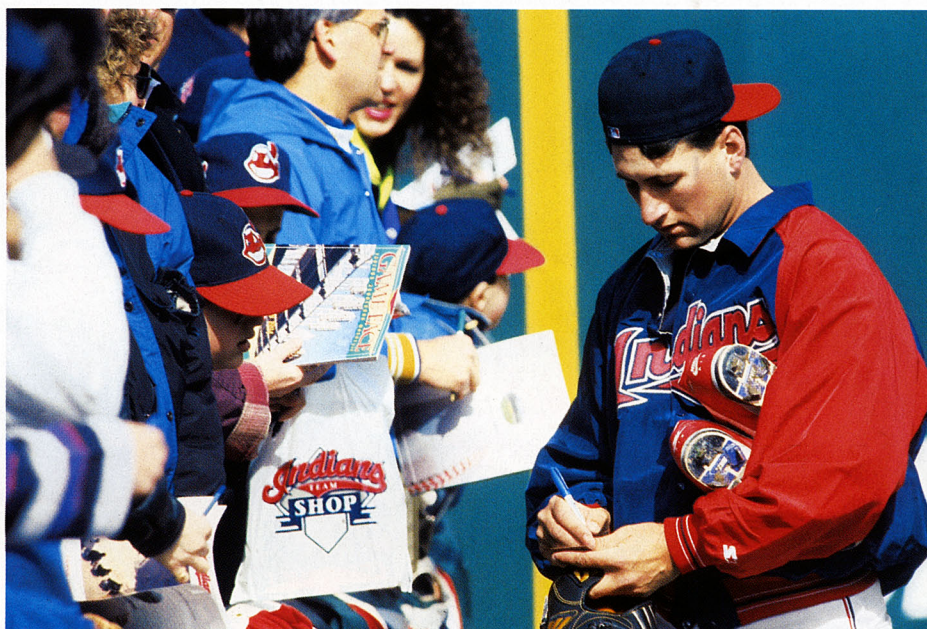


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

us, it just seemed like everyone fed off each other."

That Indians team had a swagger when it took the field. It wasn't a question of whether they would win that day's game, it was only a matter of by how much.

IN 1996 NAGY WENT
17-5 AND BECAME THE FIRST
INDIAN IN 22 YEARS
TO BE THE STARTING PITCHER
FOR THE AMERICAN
LEAGUE IN THE
ALL-STAR GAME.

"I think other teams were intimidated by our team," said Nagy. "You saw it in the other players' faces. Their pitchers didn't want to face our lineup. They were scared, and rightly so. I would have been scared, too. I wouldn't want to face that lineup."

Nagy was 16-6 that year, tying Orel Hershiser for the team-lead in wins. He finished sixth in the Cy Young Award voting. In the Post Season, Nagy was the winning pitcher in the Indians 8-2 victory over Boston in Game Three of the Division Series, completing a three-game sweep of the Red Sox. The Indians, behind Dennis Martinez, then won the pennant with a thrilling 4-0 win over Randy Johnson and

Left: Nagy signed as Cleveland's number one pick in 1988. Above: The young pitcher signs autographs during the early years at Jacobs Field.

the Mariners in Game Six of the American League Championship Series – winning that series four-games-to-two.

"I was a nervous wreck watching that sixth game," Nagy said. "Because if we had lost, I would have had to pitch the seventh game, and I had never won a game in Seattle. It just seemed like whenever I pitched in Seattle, I never made it out of the fourth inning."

Nagy never had to pitch that seventh game, because when Jose Mesa got the final out of Game Six, the Indians had won their first American League pennant in 41 years.

"It was great for me and the players who had been there when we were losing all those games," said Nagy. "But I felt even happier for the people in the organization who had been around even longer than we had. I just remember a lot of people had tears in their eyes that night. And the city of Cleveland was so happy. I remember we got back to Cleveland at six o'clock the next morning, and there were all those people at the airport. It was incredible."

The Indians then lost the World Series in six games to the Braves.

"That was a huge disappointment, but we just ran into some tough pitching," said Nagy. "Nobody overpowered anyone. We lost it on a 1-0 game in Game Six."

At that point Nagy was in the middle of the most productive part of his career. In 1996 he went 17-5 and became the first Indians



David Liam Kyle for the Cleveland Indians

pitcher in 22 years to be named the starter for the American League in the All-Star Game. He started that season 11-1, and for the season he was 8-0 when he pitched after a Tribe loss. He was fourth in the Cy Young Award voting that year.

"That was just a great year for me," he said. "The All-Star start came down to a choice between me and Andy Pettite. Grover (Mike Hargrove) was the All-Star Game manager, and he chose me. I guess it helps when your manager is also the All-Star Game manager."

In 1997 Nagy was 15-11 and was the starting pitcher in one of the most memorable games in Indians history – a 1-0 victory over the Orioles in 11 innings in Game Six of the American League Championship Series. The victory gave the Indians their second American League pennant in three years. Nagy pitched 7-1/3 shutout innings in that game, then sat in the clubhouse and watched the



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

excruciating drama on the television. The game was decided when Tribe second baseman Tony Fernandez hit a home run over the right field wall at Camden Yards off Armando Benitez in the top of the 11th inning. The

homer was one of only three hits the Indians had in the game.

"I remember sitting in the clubhouse watching the TV when Tony came up," said Nagy. "I said to somebody, 'Nobody has hit a ball to right field all night.' The wind was blowing out that way, and everyone was keeping the ball away from the lefthanders. As soon as I said that, Tony turned on one and just got it over the wall in right."

Nagy's euphoria that night turned to deep depression about 10 days later when the Tribe got within two outs of winning its first World Series in 49 years, only to see the Florida Marlins tie Game Seven at 2-2 in the bottom of the ninth, and then win it 3-2, on a two-out RBI single by Edgar Renteria in the bottom of the 11th off Tribe reliever – Charles Nagy.

"I'd just about been able to finally put that night out of my mind, but then they'd keep showing that game on TV," Nagy said. "That one was really tough. We're sitting in the dug-out in the ninth; and you go from putting your glove into the bag and figuring who you are going to jump on when you run out onto the field, to all of a sudden it's tied, and now we've got to play more baseball. I think once they caught us in the ninth, everyone was just so mentally tired, it was tough going on."

Nagy was eligible to become a free agent after the 1998 season, but he made no bones about the fact that he didn't want to leave Cleveland, and was relieved when he signed a four-year contract extension to remain with the Indians. That contract runs through the

Nagy, above with third baseman Travis Fryman, is among the Indians best pitchers in a variety of categories including: fifth on the club's all-time list for strikeouts (1,213), eighth on the list for games started (290), 10th in victories (128), and 10th in winning percentage (.569).

2002 season, which would give Nagy 12 years in Cleveland.

"The longevity means a lot to me because the injury factor is such a big one, especially for a pitcher," he said. "As a position player, you can blow out your knee and even if you miss a year you can come back the next year and play. But if a pitcher hurts his arm, he can't pitch. You can be the best fielding pitcher in the world, but it doesn't matter, because they don't always hit the ball back to you."

As the senior member of the Indians in terms of consecutive years of service, Nagy says he still enjoys the game, the life, the friendships.

"I enjoy the competitiveness of the game, being around the guys every day. I enjoy everything about the game," he said. "The thing I like the most, though, is probably the camaraderie. Being on a baseball team is like being in a fraternity. You are together every day for six months. You can sign up at a gym and get a locker, but it's not the same. You make a lot of friends in this game, and when I'm done playing, that's the part I'll miss the most."

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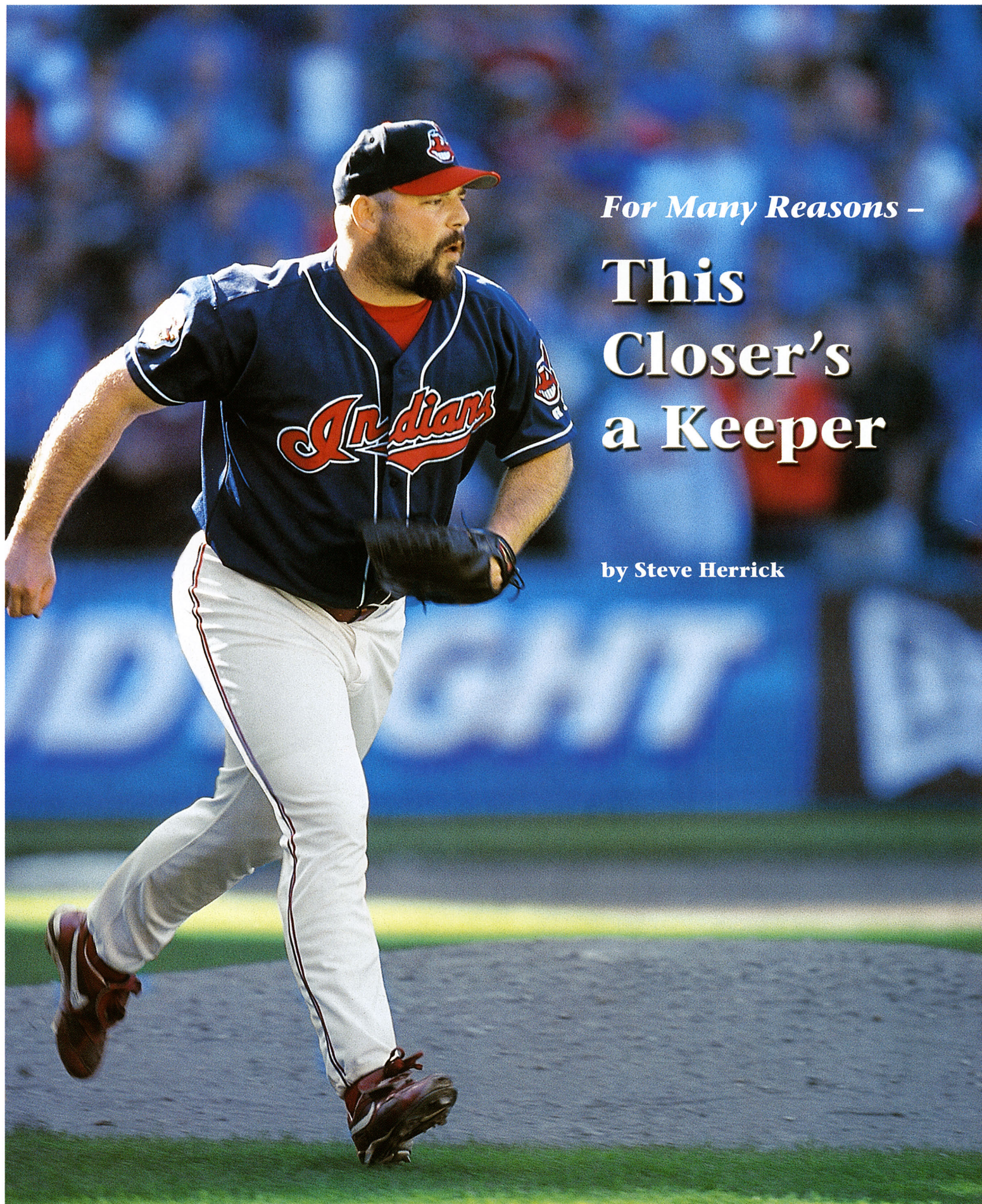
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For Many Reasons –

This Closer's a Keeper

by Steve Herrick

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

When Mark Shapiro went into the off-season, he had a clear vision about what his first decision as Indians general manager would be. That vision soon became reality. On November 5, Shapiro re-signed righthander Bob Wickman to a three-year contract with a club option for 2005.

Shapiro had sound reasons for this decision. Wickman, one of the most reliable closers in the game, gives the Indians a steady hand at the back end of the bullpen. Since being acquired from the Milwaukee Brewers on July 28, 2000, he has converted 46 of 52 save opportunities, including saving 32 of 35 chances and a 5-0 record last season.

However, Shapiro had more on his mind than just saving games when he re-signed Wickman. Ask any player and he'll tell you the ultimate compliment that can be given around a clubhouse is that someone is a good teammate. And there's no doubt Wickman is a good teammate, which was another reason why Shapiro was so anxious to make sure the pitcher remained in an Indians uniform.

"I think that's very reflective of what I believe," said Shapiro. "He represents all that's good in the game. He's about the best teammate you could ever have. This guy loves his teammates fiercely and would do anything for them."

A visitor to the Tribe's clubhouse can see the daily routine of Wickman making the rounds, shaking hands with teammates and keeping things loose. If a teammate has done well, he's one of the first to offer congratulations. If a teammate needs encouragement, he's one of the first to offer a pat on the back.

"He enjoys the game and he understands that you need to have fun," said Shapiro. "He has perspective, and he competes and wants to win."

Since being acquired from the Milwaukee Brewers on July 28, 2000, Wickman has converted 46 of 52 save opportunities, including saving 32 of 35 chances and a 5-0 record last season.

Wickman is one of the most respected players in the Tribe's clubhouse. "Bob is great to have on a team," said reliever Paul Shuey. "You need guys like him. He'll tell everybody how it is."

Indians first baseman Jim Thome and Wickman spent part of the off-season on a hunting trip in Wisconsin. The excursion included Thome's father and brothers.

"It means a lot to have a close friend you can trust," said Thome.

"Bob is very, very loyal. He's more of a friend than a teammate. I've played a long time and it's nice to know when you have a bad day, there's someone you can go to and talk about it."

Wickman was flattered his return was such a high priority for Shapiro. In fact, he was just as anxious to return to the Indians as Shapiro was to have him back. Wickman re-signed with the Indians before entering the free-agent market, where he surely could have gotten more money.

"It made me feel good," he said. "It made me feel wanted. Mark showed inter-



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

est right away. He's been up-front with me all along."

Wickman, who turned 33 in February, had other reasons for staying in Cleveland.

"There are a lot of great guys in this clubhouse," he said. "My family is happy. I didn't want to just pick up and move them somewhere. It's a nice city."

"He [Wickman] comes out and plays hard. He studies the game. He has an idea of what he wants to do on the mound. He loves being out there . . . And Bob Wickman is a man."

Indians Manager Charlie Manuel

"We said from the outset that one of our absolute priorities was to re-sign Bob," Shapiro said. "He's a tremendous closer and a consummate professional."

Indians manager Charlie Manuel is well aware of what Wickman adds to the clubhouse.

"He's a leader," said Manuel. "Wickman is a throwback. He comes out and plays hard. He studies the game. He has an idea of what he wants to do on the mound. He loves being out there. He's a competitor. And Bob Wickman is a man."

And while many people outside Cleveland probably don't realize it, Wickman is one of the top closers in the game. He finished last season seventh in the league in saves and his 91.4 save percentage was fourth best in the league.

Wickman was steady all season as the Indians regained the American League Central Division title in 2001. He converted his first 13 save chances through June 6. From July 23 through the end of the season, he converted 17 of his last 18 chances.

"Our first priority was to re-sign Wickman," said Manuel. "That allowed us to put our bullpen together. He's our closer. He's been almost perfect at it."

Perhaps because he doesn't overpower batters with a fastball that reaches the high 90s, Wickman doesn't get the publicity that other closers do.

"It really doesn't bother me," he said. "I enjoy closing games. If I get big publicity, I get it, but if I don't, it's fine."

Wickman knows he's not going to blow out any radar guns with his fastball, which reaches the low-90s. He keeps hitters off-balance by moving his fastball around and mixing in his slider and sinker.

"I'm going to throw my little garbage," Wickman said. "It doesn't matter if it is a big or small ballpark."

There is, after all, more to succeeding as a closer than having an eye-popping fastball. By

setting up hitters and being smart, Wickman still struck out 66 in 67-2/3 innings. He also held opponents to a .240 batting average and allowed only four home runs.

"He hits his spots and has a good slider," said Shuey. "He's great to have when the game is on the line."

"It's nice to have one of the top closers in the game on your team," said Thome. "Bob is from the old school. He loves the game. It's awesome to have him on your side."

Perhaps Wickman's best trait is something that all successful closers must have: the mental toughness to take the pressure of pitching with the game on the line and the ability to shake off the bad days that hit even the best stoppers at some points.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

“The team’s counting on you,” said Wickman. “You want to be the guy. You know your teammates have been out there fighting for three hours to give you the lead and you don’t want to let them down.”

Wickman has been pitching in relief since 1993 and has been a closer since 1998.

“No matter what role it is in the bullpen, every single guy is important,” said Wickman – although he admits there’s something special about pitching the final inning.

“I thrive off the competition of pitching the last inning,” he said. “The crowd’s going crazy. The game’s on the line.”

Wickman’s disposition endears him to his family and teammates. He is pictured below with wife, Sue, and their children, Kaylee and Ryan, and with teammates Jim Thome (both photos) and catcher Einar Diaz.

Pitching in the ninth inning with a slim lead separates the true closers from those who only say they should have the job.

“You think you want the ball all the time,” said Wickman. “I don’t think you can pinpoint when it actually kicks in. Some people say they want the ball, but they don’t want the job.”

A visitor to the Tribe’s clubhouse can see the daily routine of Wickman making the rounds, shaking hands with teammates and keeping things loose.

You can tell who wants the ball and who doesn’t.”

The very nature of the closer’s job is precarious. Eight innings of good work by a team can go down the drain very quickly.

“It can all change in five minutes,” said Wickman. “You can throw six or seven pitches and give up four hits. How many weird things can happen between the 26th out and the 27th out? I go after the hitters with my best stuff. If I get beat with it, I get beat with it.”

Failure is a big part of any closer’s job description. Those who can’t handle it don’t stay in the role very long.

“You don’t stick around long if you can’t shake off the bad games,” said Shuey.

Wickman adds, “You have to know how to deal with failure.”

Wickman knows there are nights he can make his best pitches, but still be beaten by a broken-bat hit or a blooper that falls in where no one is playing. And with those failures



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

come immediate scrutiny from the media and fans. As tough as those losses can be to deal with, Wickman knows he has to put them behind him when he comes to the Ballpark the next day.

"When you leave the Ballpark, you're thinking about it, but when you come to the Ballpark the next day, you have to put it out of your mind," he said.

Wickman thinks staying on an even keel is the key.

"You have to do that," he said. "In your younger days, you get on the roller-coaster. If you don't get more mature, you will stay on that roller-coaster your whole career."

Wickman knows his responsibility goes beyond his own performance. As the closer, he knows his teammates look for him to be strong in good times and bad. That's why he has to be upbeat every day when he enters the clubhouse.

"You want to see smiles on their faces when you come in," he said. "If I come in feeling down or hiding something, they'll see right through it. Tough guys will

bounce back. You have to handle it mentally. If you don't, all of a sudden you've wasted a whole month."

Wickman is entering his 10th Major League season. He played three seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he was an all-conference pitcher and hitter. His talent attracted Major League scouts to the Division III school and he was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the second round in 1990. That enabled him to become the first player from Wisconsin-Whitewater to reach the big leagues.

Wickman pitched at three different levels in 1990 and was in Double-A ball the following season. On January 10, 1992, he was traded to the New York Yankees with pitchers Domingo Jean and Melido Perez for second baseman Steve Sax and cash. Wickman was used as a starter throughout his Minor League career and also when he

joined the Yankees. He was 6-1 with a 4.11 ERA in eight starts with the Yankees in 1992.

His Major League debut came on August 24 against Milwaukee. He got a no-decision in that game, but was the winning pitcher in his next start, a 6-3 win over Minnesota.

Wickman did a little of everything on the Yankees pitching staff in 1994. He appeared in 41 games, making 19 starts, and finished the season 14-4 with four saves and a 4.63 ERA. His first 17 appearances were as a starter, where he was 8-3 with a 4.63 ERA. Wickman started the season 8-0 and was 14-1 in his first 15 career decisions. That mark put him in rare company. Since 1950, Wickman and Whitey Ford are the only Major League pitchers to begin their careers with 14-1 records.

All 53 of Wickman's appearances came in relief in 1994. His last Major League start came on May 13, 1995 at Boston. He was then moved permanently to the bullpen. Wickman saved six games in 1994 and one in 1995. Wickman pitched for the Yankees until August 23, 1996 when he was traded to the Brewers, along with outfielder Gerald Williams, for pitcher Graeme Lloyd and infielder Pat Listach. The deal marked a return to Wickman's home state, where family and friends made the 3-1/2 hour trip to Milwaukee to see him play.

Wickman flourished with the Brewers. After serving as Doug Jones' setup man in 1997, he moved into the closer's role the following season. He saved 25 games in 1998, when he was named the Brewers Most Valuable Pitcher, and set a club record with 37 saves in 1999. Wickman was 2-2 with 16 saves and a 2.93 ERA in 2000.

A couple of weeks after appearing in the All-Star Game, in which he pitched a scoreless inning, he was traded to the Indians. It was a deal that helped both teams. The Indians, fighting to make the playoffs, needed pitching while the Brewers, who were out of the post-season chase, wanted to get younger. Both sides were satisfied on July 28. The Indians acquired Wickman, Jason Bere, and Steve Woodard for first baseman Richie Sexson, pitchers Kane Davis and Paul Rigdon, and infielder Marcos Scutaro.

Wickman immediately became the Indians closer. He was 14-for-17 in save chances and saved nine of his last 10. As the 2002 season begins, Shapiro knows Wickman will be there when his teammates need him.

"I love Bob Wickman because he is a no-frills, down and dirty, big-time competitor who loves his teammates openly," said Shapiro. "To me, all that's right in the game, that's what you see in Bob Wickman. You see him and you see the good things about the game."



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

COACHES for a NEW Generation

by Yank Poleyeff

Pitching, defense, timely hitting, and speed have always been elements crucial to baseball success. The reconfiguration of the Cleveland Indians this past off-season has emphasized these qualities, so it stands to reason that the changes on Charlie Manuel's 2002 coaching staff reflect them as well.

Manuel and Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro began the overhaul last winter by hiring Eddie Murray, clutch hitter extraordinaire and a probable first-ballot Hall-of-Famer in 2003, as hitting coach; Mike Brown, former Indians Minor League Pitching Coordinator, as pitching coach; and Robby

Thompson, the veteran slick-fielding second baseman of the San Francisco Giants, as first base coach and infield instructor.

Then, when holdover Bench Coach Grady Little became the new manager of the Boston Red Sox during Spring Training, the Tribe reached into its player development system one more time and selected Minor League Field Coordinator Jeff Datz to replace him.

The returnees are Luis Isaac, long-time bullpen coach; Joel Skinner, who joined the Major League staff last season as base running instructor and third base coach; and bullpen catchers Dan Williams and Dave Keller.

"I think our coaching staff is the best in baseball," said Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro. "It's a great mix of different experiences, cultures, and generations."

A quick look at the staff's playing experience illustrates Shapiro's point. Murray and Thompson enjoyed successful Major League careers, which included several All-Star selections each. Skinner, a catcher, and Brown, a pitcher, struggled through adversity and injury, but carved out Major League careers of nine and seven years respectively. Isaac never played in the Majors, while Datz's career in the bigs was limited to seven games. Thus, virtually every current Indians player has a counterpart on the coaching staff who has gone through that player's stage in his career.

The well-conceived idea: to guide each player to his next achievable level, and thus keep the Indians successful into the new generation.

* * * * *

Although Eddie Murray is one of just 17 players in baseball history with 500 or more home runs, he was best known as a feared clutch hitter who made maximum use of every at-bat. For an Indians team that may not resemble the offensive machines of the recent past, these skills are essential to maximize the run production of the lineup.

Murray, of course, is no stranger to the Indians and Jacobs Field. His presence and



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Above: The Tribe's new hitting coach, Eddie Murray, bears outstanding credentials. His task is to pass on his wealth of knowledge to young hitters like Russell Branyan (lower right) whose natural abilities can benefit from fine-tuning.

Opposite page: Manager Charlie Manuel (middle) exchanges observations at Spring Training with new coaches (l to r) Robby Thompson and Mike Brown.

leadership on the 1995 Indians, not to mention his .323 batting average and 21 home runs, were major factors in the Tribe's American League Championship season. He also reached his personal career milestone of 3,000 hits while in a Tribe uniform in May 1995. His highly successful hitting coach at the time was current Indians skipper Charlie Manuel.

"Our hitting philosophies aren't always the same," Manuel said, "but we have a similar philosophy in that our advice is tailored around the individual."

Murray agreed. "Your stance is an indication of your comfort zone," he explained, "and the ideal situation is to make adjustments around the basic hitting style that got you here."

Murray joins the Indians after four years of coaching in Baltimore, where most recently he was the Orioles first base coach under former Indians manager Mike Hargrove.

"I needed more on my plate," Murray said, explaining the move, "I felt I could do the job with the young hitting talent this organization has assembled."

It's hard to argue with Murray's credentials to do just that. Consistently one of the most popular and respected players in the clubhouse, Murray was one of four individuals cited by baseball's retired ironman Cal Ripken as his role models. In Ripken's farewell speech at the end of last season, he thanked Murray for teaching him what preparation and consistency were all about, noting that Murray himself had a 444 consecutive games-played streak early in his career.

"Eddie represents the good things about the game," Shapiro said, "his professionalism and his ability to separate self-esteem from performance speak for themselves.

"But he doesn't rest on his laurels. He has a genuine passion for the game and the desire to help. He did it as a player, and now he's doing the same thing, just in a more official capacity."

But Murray's biggest contribution may be in the way he relays his mental approach to the game.

"When you've had the kind of career he's had," said Brady Anderson, a teammate of Murray's in Baltimore and now a Tribe outfielder, "you have to know quite a bit. But Eddie has a way of sharing that knowledge effectively."

Murray's ability to convey the importance of getting on base, avoiding strikeouts, and hitting in pressure situations are keys to the development of young talent, especially power-hitting talent such as that of Russell Branyan.

"I draw a comparison to Mike Piazza and Larry Walker," Murray explained. "They have the same power as Russ, but they also know that you don't have to swing with all your might to get the ball out of the yard.

"When Russ learns that cutting down somewhat on his swing will still get him the home runs, but will also cut down on strikeouts and generate hits, his average, home runs, and confidence level will all go up."

Murray conceded that it might take time to exert his influence.

"I have to learn the hitters too," he explained. "I ask myself, 'Is he approachable? Do I go to him or do I let him come to me?"

What kind of encouragement will he respond to the best?"

"It's like inserting a light bulb. You never know exactly which turn will make the difference. Not everybody will get it at the same time. But if you keep making your points, eventually that light will go on."

* * * * *

Mike Brown oversaw the development of most of the young Indians pitchers who are expected to make pitching the team's principal strength this season. As the Tribe's new Pitching Coach, he now has the opportunity to lead his young staff to consistent success at the Major League level.

"After my playing career, my goal was to become a Major League pitching coach," Brown explained. "Working with the Indians day-in and day-out, knowing the good system for developing pitchers we have in place, I know Cleveland is the place for me."

Brown had been the Indians Minor League Pitching Coordinator since 1995. For the past three years, he has doubled as Assistant Director of Player Development. But he was the



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

appropriate choice for more than his role in developing the Indians pitching development philosophy.

"He's always organized and on top of things," asserted Manuel. "It's a great relief to a manager to know the pitching staff is one thing less to worry about."

Bartolo Colon, C. C. Sabathia, Danys Baez, Ryan Drese, Dave Riske, and Roy Smith are among those perfected by Brown during their Minor League careers.

In August 1999, Brown flew to Baez' temporary home in Costa Rica following his defection from Cuba to watch a workout. The Indians signed Baez on Brown's recommendation. Thus it seems fitting that Brown's primary project this year is the conversion of Baez from the outstanding setup reliever he was last season into an equally effective starter in the Tribe's regular rotation.

"We had always projected him as a starter," Brown explained, "but he was converted last year out of necessity. The place he could help us best then was out of the bullpen."

"When he came up to the Majors last year, he was outstanding. But he's got the pitches and the makeup to be a starter. And if it doesn't work out, he can always go back."

Brown was once in the same position. A highly regarded pitching prospect, he was a second-round draft pick of the Red Sox in 1980 and was promoted to the big leagues within two years. He began the 1983 season in the Red Sox rotation and was leading the team in wins when he suffered his first major injury in May of that year. It began a frustrating cycle of injury and rehab that would dog him throughout his career.

Still, he managed to stay in the Majors for at least a portion of each of the next six years, compiling a 12-20 lifetime record with Boston and Seattle.

Coach and Pupil

Pitching Coach Mike Brown (top) recommended that the Indians sign Danys Baez after seeing him throw in August, 1999. Now Brown is guiding not only Baez, but many of the young arms he helped develop at the Minor League level.

"I learned a lot about being good from being bad," Brown kidded. "But I also learned there's a reason why the Clemenses, Finleys, and Nagys have had long careers. They're relentless in their approach, and they take care of themselves day-in and day-out. Pitching at the Major League level, the willingness to work and to stay fundamentally sound are not negotiable."

Shapiro, formerly the Tribe's farm director, is another avid Brown fan.

"He has all the attributes of the successful modern-day pitching coach," Shapiro said. "He's intelligent, prepared, fundamentally sound, and a great evaluator."

All of which has given him the opportunity to complete at the Major League level what he began in the Minors.

"In their development," Brown said, "we taught these young pitchers mechanics, the ability to develop pitches, and the ability to attack hitters. To be successful up here, the keys are consistency, mental frame of mind, and knowledge of hitters."

"Hopefully, they'll take what they've done up until now and just keep on building."

* * * * *

Robby Thompson brings not only his sound, fundamental reputation and outlook, but also his insight into the ability to win, which many of the transplants and rookies joining the Indians this season have yet to experience.

"Robby epitomizes everything we need to accomplish as a team," Shapiro said. "Energy, toughness, and discipline are his hallmarks. He believes in play-

continued, see New Coaches, page 100

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Slippin' n Slidin' Around Town Year-Round

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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First Pitch Luncheon

The 2002 season opened with a "welcome home" luncheon, April 9, at the Cleveland Convention Center. The entire Indians roster was on hand to help fans celebrate the start of another exciting season of Tribe baseball.

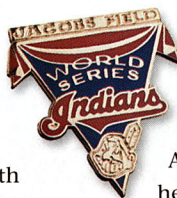


Shirt Off His Back

Take home your favorite Indians player's jersey – right off his back! During one game each homestand, Tribe fans can purchase raffle tickets to win an autographed, game-worn jersey from an Indians player. Winners will be escorted to the field after the game to receive the jersey from the player. Raffle tickets will be sold at various locations around Jacobs Field. Cost is \$5.00 for two raffle tickets. Call 216.420.4400 for specific players and game date information.

Pepsi Corporate Hitting Challenge

Assemble your power-hitting team and prepare to swing for the fences in the 7th annual corporate event. This single-elimination tournament pits Cleveland area businesses against each other. The first round begins in May and winds up in September. All rounds are held at Jacobs Field, with warm-ups in the batting cages. Call 216.420.4389 for a brochure or to register your team of nine players.



Garage Sale

Saturday, June 29 – This summer, don't miss the best garage sale on the block! Cleveland Indians Charities will hold its first-ever Garage Sale at Gateway Plaza, between Jacobs Field and Gund Arena! The event will feature game-worn jerseys, caps, and batting helmets; used bats; street-pole banners; ballpark signage; and other Indians items you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss this baseball collector's dream sale!

Annual Celebrity Golf Classic



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Thursday, July 25 – Hit the links with your favorite Tribe players for the 11th annual Celebrity Golf Classic at Quail Hollow Resort and Country Club. Teams will be paired with Indians players, coaches, broadcasters, and local sports celebrities. Call 216.420.4400 for a brochure or to register.

The Music Returns in 2002



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Saturday, August 24 – The celebrity concert of the summer is back! Enjoy a night filled with music and surprises as several Tribesmen perform with well-known rock-n-roll stars! The fourth annual event is fun for music and baseball fans of all ages. Call 216.420.4400 for the lineup of stars and ticket prices.



Jacobs Field Ground Rules

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: *PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!*

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

● MLB Universal Code of Conduct

The Cleveland Indians are committed to creating a safe and enjoyable ballpark experience. Our staff will proactively intervene to support an environment where:

- ❑ Obscene or indecent clothing will not detract from the guest experience.
- ❑ Guests will enjoy the baseball experience free from foul abusive language or obscene gestures.
- ❑ Guests will refrain from displays of affection not appropriate in a public family setting.
- ❑ Intervention with an impaired or intoxicated guest will be handled in a prompt and safe manner.
- ❑ Guests will show their ticket when requested and sit only in their ticketed seat.
- ❑ The progress of the game will not be disrupted by guest actions or unauthorized access to the playing field.
- ❑ All camera and equipment bags are subject to inspection.
- ❑ Per MLB requirements, fans may not bring coolers, backpacks, or lunch bags into any ballpark. Small bags (i.e. – purses) will be inspected before they are permitted into the ballpark.
- ❑ For the safety and comfort of all of our fans, umbrellas are not permitted in the ballpark.

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; Club Lounge; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Ford Picnic Pavilion; Miller Lite Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."

Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business

tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club has both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, working dogs for persons with disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- For the consideration of all of our fans, please refrain from entering and exiting the seating bowl while game action is occurring.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

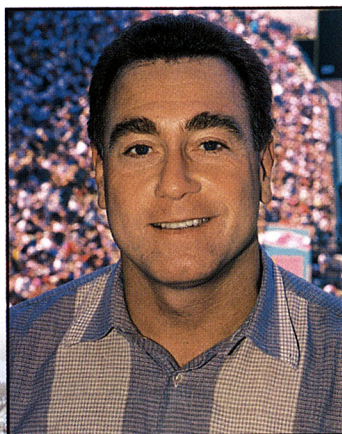
If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one of the Guest Service Centers located at Section 121 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Cleveland Indians Broadcasters

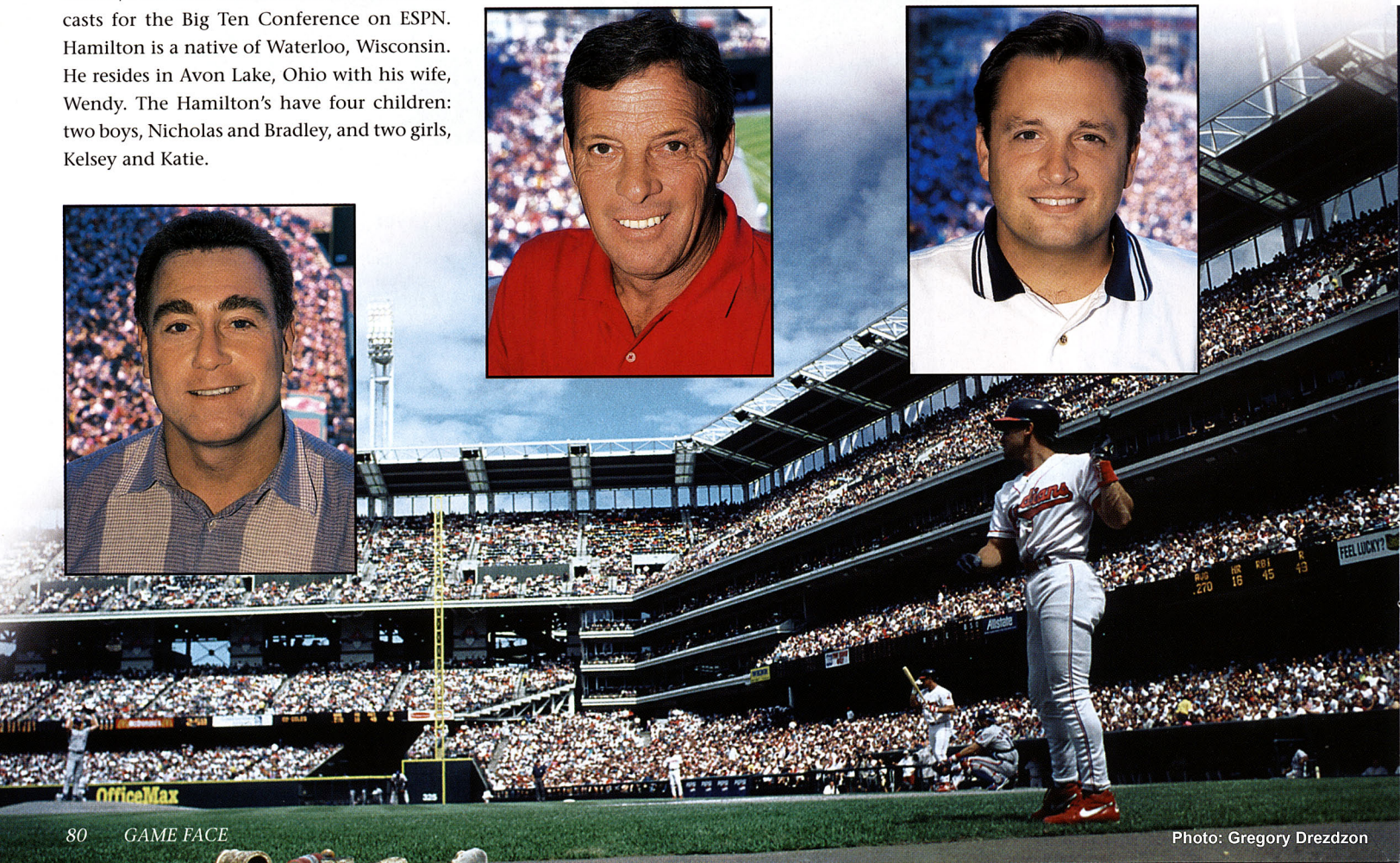
Tom Hamilton, the "Voice of the Indians," is now in his 13th season of calling Cleveland Indians baseball games on radio. In his 12 seasons since 1990, Hamilton has called 57 post-season games for the Tribe from 1994-99 and 2001 including all six games from the 1995 World Series and all seven games from the 1997 World Series. Hamilton will be teamed in the booth with Mike Hegan and Matt Underwood to provide commentary for all 162 regular-season games and 20 Spring Training contests on NEWSRADIO WTAM 1100 AM and on the Indians Radio Network. Tom came to the Indians after spending three seasons as a broadcaster for the AAA Columbus Clippers, the top farm club of the New York Yankees. Previously, he worked in Milwaukee, Appleton, Watertown, and Shell Lake, Wisconsin. Some of Tom's broadcasting credits include the University of Wisconsin football games, University of Colorado basketball games, the Appleton Foxes Minor League baseball games, and work for ABC Radio. He is a three-time recipient of the Ohio Sportscaster of the Year Award (1997, 2000, and 2001). During the off-season, Tom does television basketball broadcasts for the Big Ten Conference on ESPN. Hamilton is a native of Waterloo, Wisconsin. He resides in Avon Lake, Ohio with his wife, Wendy. The Hamilton's have four children: two boys, Nicholas and Bradley, and two girls, Kelsey and Katie.



Mike Hegan is in his 14th season as a Tribe broadcaster. He is teaming up with Tom Hamilton and Matt Underwood for a fifth straight year in the Indians radio booth and is in his debut season with FOX Sports Net – joining John Sanders and Rick Manning in the television booth on a rotational basis. Mike handles both play-by-play and color analysis with WTAM and FOX Sports Net. He spent the past 13 seasons providing color analysis for Tribe games on WUAB-TV43. Prior to joining the Indians in 1989, he spent 12 seasons as a television announcer for the Milwaukee Brewers. Mike played 12 years in the Major Leagues (1964-77) with the New York Yankees, Seattle Pilots, Milwaukee Brewers, and the Oakland Athletics. The former first basemen-outfielder represented Seattle in the 1969 All-Star Game and played on the 1972 World Championship Oakland Athletics team. Mike is the son of former Indians catcher, Jim Hegan, who played with the Tribe for 14 seasons. Mike and his wife, Nancy, reside in Hilton Head, SC. They have two sons, Shawn and J.J., and two grandchildren.



Matt Underwood is in his third season as a member of the Tribe radio broadcast team. He has spent seven seasons, from 1994-2001, as host of *Indians Warm-up*, the pregame show heard on the Cleveland Indians Radio Network. He has also hosted the pregame show for Indians baseball on FOX Sports Net for the past five seasons. Matt spent the previous 12 years in various capacities with local ABC affiliate WEWS-TV5. He has continued that relationship in a part-time role since joining the Tribe radio broadcast team during the 2000 season. He served as the station's sports director from 1997-2000. In addition to anchoring the 6PM and 11PM sports, he also hosted the weekly half-hour show, *Sports Sunday*. Underwood co-hosted a daily talk show on SportsRadio WKNR (1993-94) and served as play-by-play voice for WVIZ's High School Football and Basketball *Game of the Week* from 1992-1998. The Ashland, OH native graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1990. Matt currently resides in Avon Lake with his wife, Shelley. They have two children, Max and Devan.



UNITED WAY SERVICES



TEAM UP

with United Way for the 2002 Softball Slam!

**Secure your spot on United Way's
Softball Slam team and hit a home
run for the community.**

When you sign on, you will:

- play in a five-inning softball game right on Jacobs Field*
- receive a pair of tickets to the August 11 game against the Texas Rangers
- have your picture taken with Jim Thome and Bob Wickman
- see your name in lights on the stadium scoreboard
- be entered into a drawing for great prizes, including Indians tickets, autographed memorabilia, first pitch at an Indians game, and much more!

A very limited number of sponsorships are available at \$1,000 for this unique opportunity.

All proceeds will benefit the nearly 130 partner agencies of United Way.

**TO SECURE YOUR SPOT ON THE TEAM OR FOR
MORE INFORMATION, CALL UNITED WAY AT
(216) 436-2123.**

*Team participants must be 12 years of age or older.

Indians



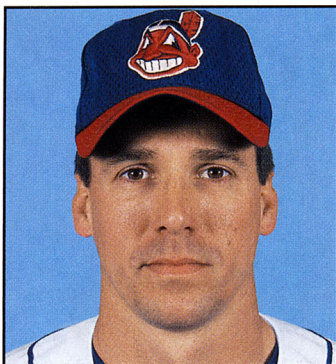
**United Way
Services**

www.uws.org



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

2002 Cleveland Indians



**TRAVIS
FRYMAN** 17

Age: 33, born March 25, 1969
in Lexington, KY
Position: Third Base
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'1" Wt: 205



**RICKY
GUTIERREZ** 12

Age: 31, born May 23, 1970
in Miami, FL
Position: Infielder
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'1" Wt: 195



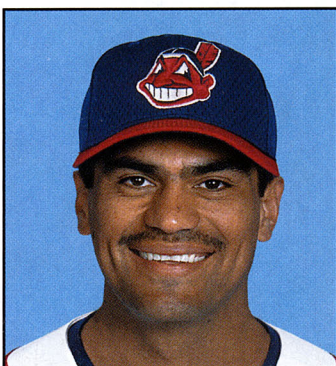
**MATT
LAWTON** 11

Age: 30, born November 3, 1971
in Gulfport, MS
Position: Outfielder
B-T: L-R Ht: 5'10" Wt: 190



**JOHN
MCDONALD** 8

Age: 27, born September 24,
1974 in New London, CT
Position: Infielder
B-T: R-R Ht: 5'11" Wt: 175



**EDDIE
PEREZ** 38

Age: 33, born May 4, 1968
in Ciudad Ojeda, Venezuela
Position: Catcher
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'1" Wt: 185



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



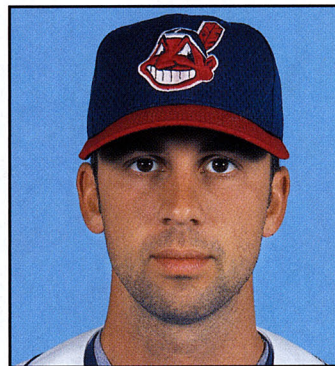
**JERROD
RIGGAN** 51

Age: 27, born May 16, 1974
in Brewster, WA
Position: Pitcher
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'3" Wt: 197



**RICARDO
RINCON** 73

Age: 32, born April 13, 1970
in Veracruz, Mexico
Position: Pitcher
B-T: L-L Ht: 5'9" Wt: 190



**DAVID
RISKE** 54

Age: 25, born October 23, 1976
in Renton, WA
Position: Pitcher
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'2" Wt: 180



**C.C.
SABATHIA** 52

Age: 21, born July 21, 1980
in Vallejo, CA
Position: Pitcher
B-T: L-L Ht: 6'7" Wt: 270

New Coaches

continued from page 70

ing the game the right way, and he's not afraid to vocalize that."

Ironically, one reason the Indians were able to hire Thompson from the Giants, where he had coached since his retirement as a player in 1997, was because their Spring Training facility is located in Florida.

"Over the last couple of years, I was unable to spend time with my family during Spring Training or the regular season," explained Thompson, who lives year-round in Tequesta, Florida with his wife Brenda and their four children. "I had many great years in the Giants organization, and it was a tough decision to leave."

"But with the Indians camp a few hours away by car, and Cleveland in the East, we'll be able to spend a lot more time together. My kids are growing up too quickly for me to spend any more years away."



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

Thompson, who teamed with shortstop Royce Clayton to give the Giants the best double-play combination in the National League during the early '90s, will be faced with the challenge of converting the capable shortstop Ricky Gutierrez into a second baseman. Gutierrez was signed in the off-season to join perennial Gold Glover Omar Vizquel in comprising the Tribe's double-play combo.

"With time, Ricky will make the change successfully," Thompson said. "He's already

The Indians new Infield Instructor and First Base Coach, Robby Thompson, is confident that converted shortstop Ricky Gutierrez (pictured left) can make a successful switch to second base.

Below: Thompson relates well with his "students." The former San Francisco Giants infielder is not far removed from his own playing days – and easily identifies with the challenges his players face.

Opposite page: Newly appointed Bench Coach, Jeff Datz, provides instruction to two young Minor Leaguers at Spring Training workouts in Winter Haven, FL. Datz is well-acquainted with the Tribe's up-and-coming talents, having served as the team's Minor League Field Coordinator for the past two seasons.



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

shown his good range and he's up to the extra work. The pivot at the base is different and your back is to the runner, but the required skills are very similar. If you can play shortstop, you can play second."

According to former Tribe second baseman and long-time Giants broadcaster Duane Kuiper, Thompson is the ideal person to guide Gutierrez through the transition.

"I watched Robby his whole career," Kuiper said. "He was a leader among players by the way he played and the way he communicated. He wasn't afraid to express himself, sternly if necessary, to get his point across. And he approached coaching for the Giants pretty much the same way."

Thompson's playing credentials included a Gold Glove at second base in 1993, which was also his best offensive season, and two N.L. All-Star selections. Despite the fact that his career ended prematurely in 1997 following surgery to both shoulders, Robby is one player who counts his baseball blessings. The Thompson family donated a commemorative brick to the Willie Mays Place area at Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco with the inscription, "Thanks for keeping the faith."

"People remember how you approached the game," Thompson remarked, "and it hasn't been that long since I was still out there. I haven't forgotten how tough the game can be.

"Sure I can give advice, and I think I have a decent knack of sitting down and relating to players. But above all, I tell them that I know the game is tough, and that they have all the support in the world from me."

* * * * *

Jeff Datz was preparing for his third season as the organization's Minor League Field Coordinator when Grady Little received his long-awaited, well-deserved call to be a field manager at the Major League level.

"When I heard the announcement," said Datz, "I thought there was a possibility I could be considered to be the new Bench Coach. Mark (Shapiro) and the Indians organization have been great to me over the years, and I knew that if I believed I was ready, they were aware of it, too."

Datz was one of only two candidates interviewed for the job. The other was Eric Wedge, who, as skipper of the Tribe's top Minor League affiliate in Buffalo, won the International League's 2001 Manager of the Year award.

"I thought about it for a long time," Manuel said, "because I have great respect for both guys. I knew I couldn't go wrong with either of them."

Experience was one of the main factors behind Datz's selection. He's been with the Indians since 1991. As field coordinator, he was responsible for coordinating all Minor League workouts during Spring Training, then overseeing players and coaches for all six affiliates during the regular season.

Datz was no stranger to the inside of a dugout either, having managed six seasons in the Tribe's Minor League system. His 1998 Buffalo Bisons, whose roster included Einar Diaz and Russell Branyan, won the International League championship.

But his biggest challenge is to develop some instant chemistry with Manuel, who will be relying on Datz for instantaneous, in-game analysis and strategy recommendations. Datz is also expected to absorb the voluminous amount of statistics provided to Major League clubs and apply them at a moment's notice.

"Charlie and I go back 15 or 20 years, to when he managed in the Minors and I played for an opposing team," Datz explained. "We've worked together in Spring Training and developed a great rapport.

"He's a good baseball man, I'm a good baseball man, and we tend to think alike. That's the most important formula for a winning combination, in my opinion."



Photo: Gregory Drezdson